

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application.

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 26, 2008. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-18, 22-26, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e); and claims 5, 13, 20, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In addition, the Examiner indicated allowable subject matter for claims 4, 12, 19, and 27. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 5, 8, 13, 16, 20, 23, and 28; amended claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9-11, 14, 15, 17-18, 21-22, 24-26, 29-30; and added new claims 31-37. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for claims 4, 12, 19, and 27. In addition, the Examiner objected to claims 6, 14, 21, and 29. Applicant has amended claims 6, 14, 21, and 29 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claims 31-37

Applicant has added new claims 31-37 to provide further specificity to the claimed invention. Applicant submits that the newly added claims 31-37 introduce no new matter. Support for claims 31-37 may be found in the specification on page 6, lines 7-15, for example. Since these new claims 31-37 are dependent claims of allowable independent claims, Applicant believes that these claims are allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent claims 4, 6, 12, 14, 19, 21, and 27 and their respective dependent claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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